

EPA ID: ILP000510790

Site Name: BRUCO CO

State ID:

Alias Site Names:

City: CHICAGO

Refer to Report Dated:

County or Parish: COOK

State: IL

Report Developed By: STATE

Report Type: PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT 001

- ☒ 1. Further Remedial Site Assessment Under CERCLA (Superfund) is not required because:  
NFRAP-Site does not qualify for the NPL based on existing information
- ☐ 2. Further Assessment Needed Under CERCLA:

**Discussion/Rationale:**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that no further remedial action by the Federal Superfund program is warranted at the referenced site, at this time. The basis for the no further remedial action planned (NFRAP) determination is provided in the attached document. A NFRAP designation means that no additional remedial steps under the Federal Superfund program will be taken at the site unless new information warranting further Superfund consideration or conditions not previously known to EPA regarding the site are disclosed. In accordance with EPA's decision regarding the tracking of NFRAP sites, the referenced site may be removed from the CERCLIS database and placed in a separate archival database as a historical record if no further Superfund interest is warranted. Archived sites may be returned to the CERCLIS site inventory if new information necessitating further Superfund consideration is discovered.

Site Decision Made by: ERICA AULTZ, SITE ASSESSMENT MANAGER

Signature: Erica Aultz

Date: 02/21/2013

LPC# 0316605049 Cook Co.  
Bruco Company  
ILP# 000510790  
SF/HRS



# **CERCLA Preliminary Assessment**



Prepared by:  
Office of Site Evaluation  
Division of Remediation Management  
Bureau of Land

**SIGNATURE PAGE**

**Title:** Preliminary Assessment for Bruco Company

**Preparer:** Bruce Everetts, Office of Site Evaluation, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

  
Signature

11/13/12  
Date

**Approval:** Erica Anttz, Site Assessment <sup>Mgr</sup> 2/21/13  
~~Patrick Hamblin, Acting Chief, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5~~

  
Signature

2/21/13  
Date

*The approval signatures on this page indicate that this document has been authorized for information release to the public through appropriate channels. No other forms or signatures are required to document this information release.*

**Preliminary Assessment  
Report**

**for:**

**Bruco Company  
Chicago, Illinois**

**PREPARED BY:  
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
BUREAU OF LAND  
DIVISION OF REMEDIATION MANAGEMENT  
OFFICE OF SITE EVALUATION**

**November 13, 2012**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>SECTION</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>1.0 Introduction</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>2.0 Site Background</b> .....	<b>3</b>
2.1 Site Description .....	3
2.2 Site History .....	4
2.3 Regulatory Status .....	5
<b>3.0 Field Investigation Activities</b> .....	<b>5</b>
3.1 Field Inspection .....	5
3.2 XRF Data .....	7
<b>4.0 Potential Sources</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>5.0 Migration Pathways</b> .....	<b>8</b>
5.1 Groundwater Pathway .....	8
5.2 Surface Water Pathway .....	8
5.3 Soil Exposure Route .....	9
5.4 Air Pathway .....	10
<b>6.0 Summary</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>7.0 References</b> .....	<b>12</b>

### Attachments

Figure 1 .....	Site Location Map
Figure 2 .....	Site Topographic Map
Figure 3 .....	Aerial Photograph
Figure 4 .....	XRF Sample Location Map
Figure 5 .....	1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
Figure 6 .....	1917 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
Figure 7 .....	1938 Aerial Photograph

### 4-Mile Radius Map

## **Section 1.0 Introduction**

On February 22, 2012, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (Illinois EPA) Office of Site Evaluation was tasked by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region V to conduct a Preliminary Assessment at the Bruco Company (Bruco) site in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois (see Figure 1). The Bruco site is located at 1416 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street and is illustrated in Figures 2 and 3.

The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) (40 CFR Part 300) requires that a Preliminary Assessment be performed on all sites entered into the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability System (CERCLIS), U.S. EPA's inventory of hazardous waste sites. The Bruco site was entered into CERCLIS on October 25, 2012, as a result of a Pre-CERCLIS Screening Assessment that determined that a Preliminary Assessment was warranted.

If the findings of the Preliminary Assessment determine that further investigation is necessary, the site will continue to progress through the Superfund process and receive a Site Inspection. A Site Inspection will evaluate the extent that a site presents a threat to human health and/or the environment. This may be accomplished by collecting and analyzing wastes and environmental media samples to determine if the site qualifies for possible inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL) or should be given a No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP) designation. At any time throughout the Superfund evaluation process, the site may be given a NFRAP designation, be referred to another state or federal clean-up program, or recommended for further evaluation. The Preliminary Assessment is performed under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) commonly known as Superfund.

## **Section 2.0 Site Background**

### **Section 2.1 Site Description**

The Bruco site is located on the north side of Roosevelt Road just west of downtown Chicago in an area historically known as “Little Italy.” 12<sup>th</sup> Street was renamed Roosevelt Road in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and throughout the remainder of the Preliminary Assessment the street will be referred to as Roosevelt Road. While in operation, it is estimated that the Bruco site occupied approximately 0.2 acres of property. The property where Bruco once operated is bordered by Roosevelt Road to the south, Loomis Street to the west, West Filmore Street to the north, and South Ashland Avenue to the west. Specifically the site is located at a latitude of 41° 52’ 2.155” North and a longitude of 087° 39’ 45.533” West. A detailed aerial photograph of the area can be found in Figure 3.

The vicinity of the Bruco site is a mixture of light industrial and residential properties. There is a complex of approximately 40 apartment buildings located north of Roosevelt Road which includes 1416 West Roosevelt Road. According to information gathered during this assessment, the apartment buildings were constructed during the 1980’s and 1990’s. These apartments are currently located where the Bruco facility formerly operated.

The topography of the area is primarily flat with excess surface water channeled toward storm sewers which are located on all of the major surrounding streets. A concrete sidewalk runs parallel to Roosevelt Road and is separated from the apartment complex by a wrought iron fence. Surrounding the apartment buildings, the soil is sloped away from the buildings to allow for drainage away from the buildings. The majority of soil surrounding the apartment complex is vegetated with grass and/or trees and bushes. Vehicular access to the apartment complex is controlled by a gate house where a security guard is present.

## Section 2.2 Site History

There were no listings of the Bruco Company in the Standard Metals Directories from 1940 and 1948. The 1963 Standard Metals Directory listed Bruco as a storage battery manufacturer, scrap iron and metal dealer, and a smelter of battery lead.

An archived copy of the Suburban Economist Newspaper contains a classified advertisement from 1963 and 1965 which lists Bruco Battery Company at 1416 West Roosevelt Road. The Suburbanite Economist Newspaper was based in Chicago and operated from 1905 through 1975.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (Sanborns) from 1917 through 1950 do not indicate the presence of Bruco Company at 1416 West Roosevelt Road (W. 12<sup>th</sup> St). In 1917, 1416 Roosevelt Road was listed as a stone building that was occupied by an undertaker. The immediate area in 1917 was occupied by several businesses that included a tailor shop, laundry facilities, a cooperage company (barrel making and storage), bake shop, Western Dairy Company, and several residential dwellings. A copy of the 1917 Sanborn can be found in Figure 6.

The Sanborn from 1950 does not list an occupant to the building located at 1416 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street. During that time, businesses located in the immediate area were listed as a bake shop, barrel storage, mattress factory, two laundry facilities, Western Dairy Company, and several residential dwellings. An illustration of the 1950 Sanborn map can be found in Figure 5.



### **Section 2.3 Regulatory Status**

Based upon available file information the Bruco site does not appear to be subject to Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) corrective action authorities. Information that is currently available does not indicate that the site is under the authority of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA), Uranium Mine Tailings Action (UMTRCA), or the Federal Insecticide Fungicide or Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)

### **Section 3.0 Field Inspection Activities**

#### **Section 3.1 Field Inspection**

On August 8, 2012, Illinois EPA's Office of Site Evaluation conducted a site reconnaissance visit to 1416 West Roosevelt in Chicago. The location that was once occupied by Bruco is now part of a large apartment complex just north of Roosevelt Road. Most of the areas surrounding the apartment buildings are covered with sidewalks, roads, and parking lots. There are, however, areas surrounding the apartment buildings that are covered with grass, bushes, and trees. The apartment complex is separated from Roosevelt Road by a black wrought iron fence. The photograph below depicts the apartment complex looking north from Roosevelt Road.



During the site reconnaissance, five soil samples (including one background) were analyzed for inorganic contaminants using an X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analyzer. The XRF is a hand held instrument that analyzes the soil for inorganic constituents (also known as metals). The results of the XRF analysis are presented in Section 3.2.

Each XRF location was collected within approximately 25 feet of at least one of the apartment buildings. All of the XRF samples were collected from areas of un-vegetated soil within the upper one inch. Each location was selected to determine any possible impact that the Bruco facility may have had on the area. The locations of the XRF samples are illustrated in Figure 4.

### Section 3.2 X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) Data

Listed below are the results of the XRF samples. Prior to the collection of the XRF samples near the apartment complex, a background soil sample was collected from Adams Park. Adams Park is located approximately ¼ mile to the south of 1416 West Roosevelt Road. Based upon the results, the samples collected from the apartment complex did not significantly exceed background values. There were no inorganic constituents detected above any health-based standards or other criteria that may warrant any removal or remedial actions. These results will be shared with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for their interpretation.

	XRF 1 0 - 2 inches background	XRF 2 0 - 1 inch	XRF 3 0 - 1 inch	XRF 4 0 - 1 inch	XRF 5 0 - 1 inch
Lead	88	117	114	115	82
Zinc	135	167	188	155	106
Nickel	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD
Copper	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD
Chromium	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD

all values are reported in parts per million (ppm)

< LOD - below the detection of the instrument

### Section 4.0 Potential Sources

The Bruco facility was listed in the Standard Metals Directory as a storage battery manufacturer, scrap iron and metal dealer, and a smelter of battery lead. Based upon those historic types of activities that took place at 1416 West Roosevelt Road, inorganic soil contamination may have resulted.

Although past site activities may have contributed to soil contamination in the immediate area, the soil surrounding the apartment buildings appears not stressed and is well vegetated. The construction of the apartment buildings, sidewalks, and roads in the area would have resulted in the redistribution of soil in the immediate area. It is unclear if the soil that is currently located at or near 1416 West Roosevelt is the same surface soil that has been there since the operation of Bruco.

Based upon the results of the XRF samples, and the fact that the most of the soil surface is well vegetated, it appears that the shallow soil in the vicinity of the apartment complex has not been adversely impacted by past site activities. For those reasons, contaminated soil will not be considered a source of contamination for the Bruco site.

## **Section 5.0 Pathway Discussions**

### **Section 5.1 Groundwater**

An internal file search was conducted to identify groundwater wells located within the area of the Bruco site. Based upon that search, there was no drinking water wells identified within the immediate area. The City of Chicago supplies drinking water to the residents of the area through surface water intakes located in Lake Michigan.

There was no groundwater samples collected during the Preliminary Assessment. Due to the fact that groundwater is not being used for drinking it was determined not to be of concern at this time.

### **Section 5.2 Surface Water**

Surface water drainage would most likely migrate towards storm water drains located along the streets that surround the apartment complex(s). The storm water system is part of the

City of Chicago storm water collection system. There are no creeks, rivers, or streams located within the proximity of the Bruco site.

No surface water or sediment samples were collected from the area during the Preliminary Assessment investigation.

### **Section 5.3 Soil Exposure**

During the Preliminary Assessment, four soil samples were analyzed by the XRF for inorganic constituents. The soil samples were collected from four random locations of exposed soil around the apartment buildings in the vicinity of 1416 West Roosevelt Road (see Figure 4). Based upon the XRF results (see Section 3.2), there are no indications that contaminated soil exists at 1416 West Roosevelt Road.

Using U.S. Geological Survey topographical maps and U.S. Census data from 2010, approximately 38,605 people reside within 1-mile of the Bruco site. A map illustrating the site with 4-mile distance rings can be found as an attachment to the Preliminary Assessment. There are no schools or daycare facilities located within 200 feet of the Bruco site.

#### **Nearby Illinois population within one-mile of the site**

<b>Distance (mi)</b>	<b>Population</b>
0 – ¼ mile	2430
¼ - ½ mile	7296
½ - 1 mile	28879
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,605</b>

The number of people was calculated using 2.63 people per household in Cook County, established by the U. S. Census Bureau and ARCVIEW population calculations

## Section 5.4 Air Route

No formal air samples were taken during the Preliminary Assessment at the Bruco site. Most of the soil surrounding the apartment buildings is covered by grass and would inhibit surface soils from becoming air borne.

Using U.S. Geological Survey topographical maps and U.S. Census data from 2010, approximately 736,205 people reside within four miles of the Bruco site. A map illustrating the site with 4-mile distance rings can be found as an attachment to the Preliminary Assessment Report.

### Illinois population within four-miles of the site

Distance (mi)	Population
0 – ¼ mile	2430
¼ - ½ mile	7296
½ - 1 mile	28879
1 – 2 miles	124451
2 – 3 miles	218798
3 – 4 miles	354351
<b>Total</b>	<b>736,205</b>

The number of people was calculated using 2.63 people per household in Cook County, established by the U. S. Census Bureau and ARCVIEW population calculations

## Section 6.0 Summary

Based upon historic maps, the Bruco site operated from a building approximately 25 feet X 50 feet in size located just west of downtown Chicago, Cook County. The Preliminary Assessment focused on an area that was once used as a storage battery manufacturer, scrap iron and metal dealer, and a smelter of battery lead. That location was identified as 1416 West Roosevelt Road (aka: West 12<sup>th</sup> Street) and was reportedly the home to Bruco Company.

Currently there are at least three apartment buildings located on or near the 1416 West Roosevelt address (see Figure 3). These apartment buildings are part of a larger complex of 40 buildings located north of Roosevelt Road, west of Loomis Street, and east of South Ashland Avenue. The apartment buildings were reportedly built during the 1980's and 1990's. The area surrounding 1416 Roosevelt Road is composed mostly of residential properties with light industry scattered throughout.

As part of the Preliminary Assessment, four soil samples were analyzed using the field portable X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analyzer. The samples were collected from bare, un-vegetated soil near three apartment buildings just north of Roosevelt Road. Each soil sample location was collected from the surface to one inch deep. The samples were collected in order to determine if nearby residents could be exposed to possible inorganic constituents that may have been present due to historic activities of Bruco.

The results of the XRF sampling indicate that the shallow soil in the vicinity of 1416 West Roosevelt Road does not contain elevated levels of inorganic constituents. Since the levels of inorganics were detected at or near background levels in the shallow soil, there is no indication that the resident or nearby population would be exposed to any residual contamination that may have resulted from the operation of the Bruco facility.

Illinois EPA will be sharing the completed Preliminary Assessment Report, including the XRF data, with the Illinois Department of Public Health. The Illinois Department of Public Health will conduct a health assessment based upon that information.

## **7.0 References**

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Land: file for Bruco Company,  
LPC# 0316605049

Standard Metals Directory, 1940, 1948, 1963

Illinois Natural Resources Geospatial Data Clearinghouse, Illinois State Geological  
Survey, Aerial Photography and Topographical Maps for Chicago Loop  
Quadrangle, Englewood Quadrangle, Jackson Park Quadrangle, River Forest  
Quadrangle; <http://www.isgs.edu/nsdihome/>

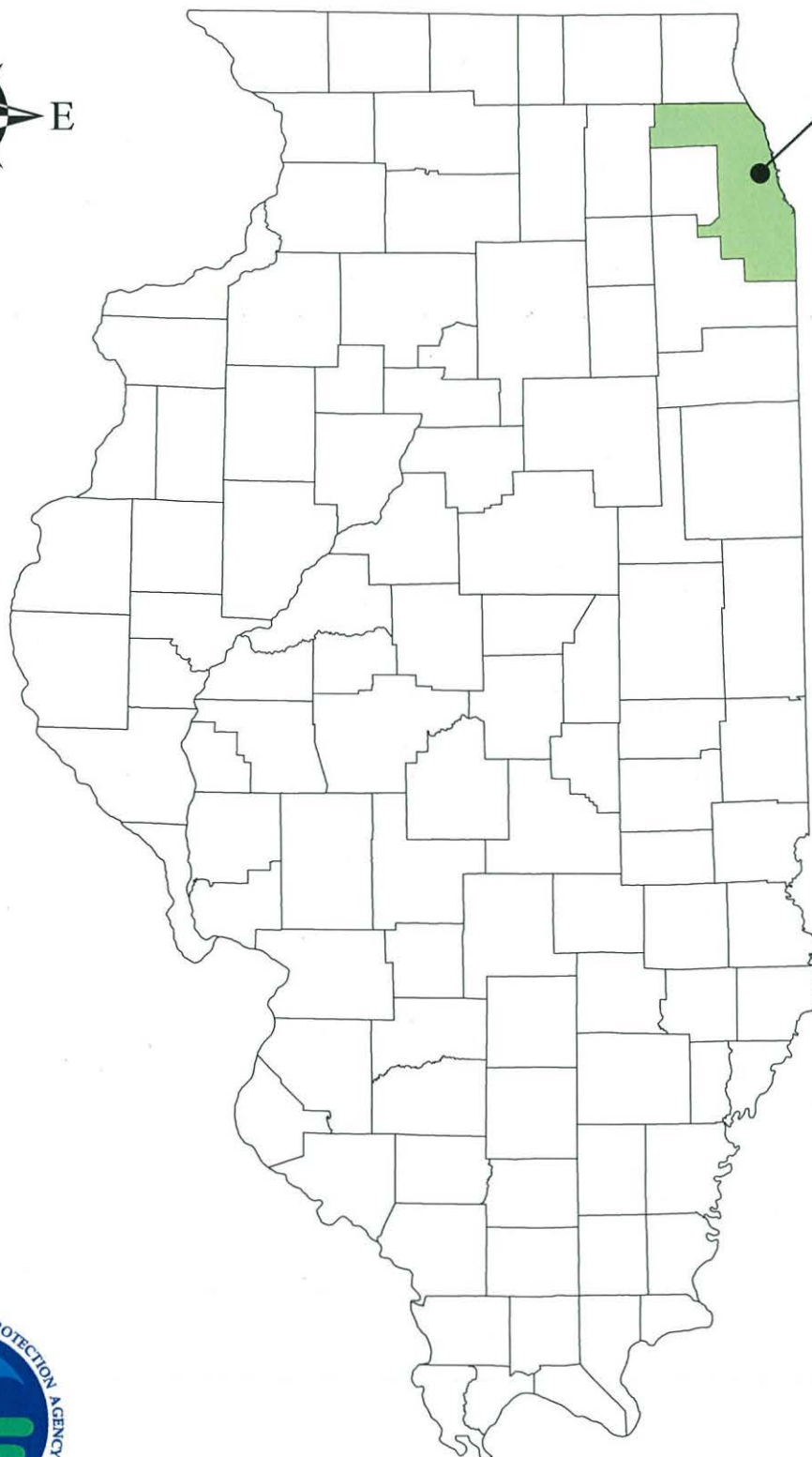
United States Census Bureau, census data for Cook County, Illinois, web site;  
<http://www.census.gov/geo/www/maps/>

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1917 and 1950





**Figure 1**  
**Site Location Map**

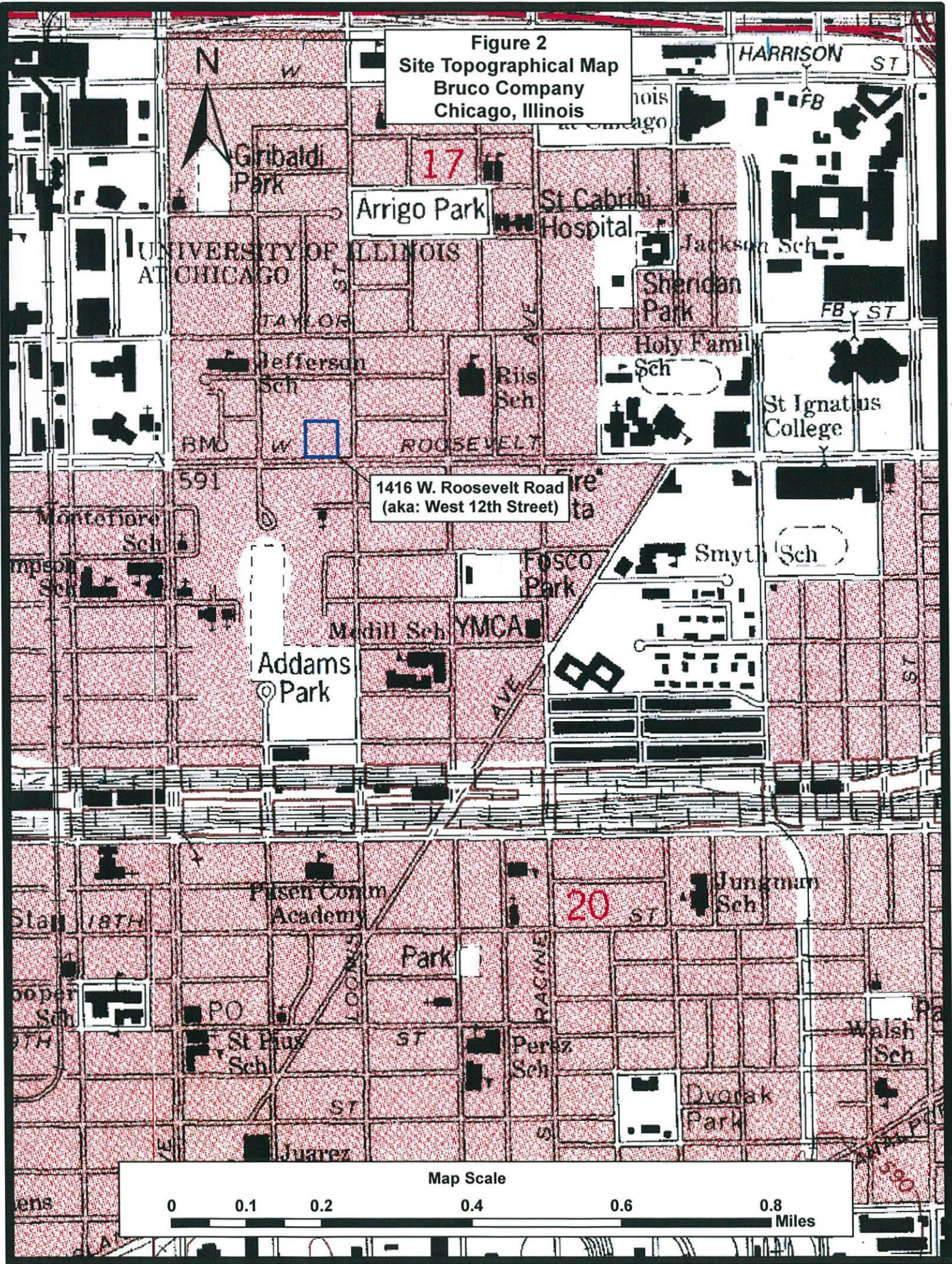


**Bruco Company**  
**Chicago, Illinois**  
**Cook County**





Figure 2  
Site Topographical Map  
Bruco Company  
Chicago, Illinois





**Figure 3**  
**2005 Aerial Photograph**  
**Bruco Company**  
**Chicago, Illinois**



Interstate 290

Rush University  
Medical Center

University of Illinois  
at Chicago

South Ashland Avenue

Loomis Street

Historic Location  
of  
Bruco Company

Roosevelt Road (aka: 12th Street)

Map Scale

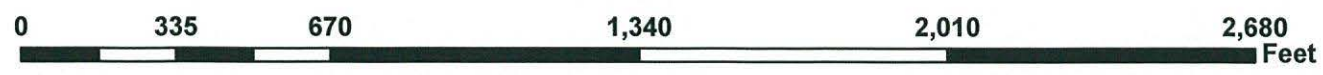




Figure 4  
XRF Sample Locations  
Bruco Company  
Chicago, Illinois



XRF 5

XRF 4

XRF 3

XRF 2

Roosevelt Road (aka: 12th Street)

Map Scale

0 55 110 220 330 440 Feet



Figure 5  
1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

1416 West 12th Street  
(Roosevelt Road)

WELT ROAD  
(14TH ST.)

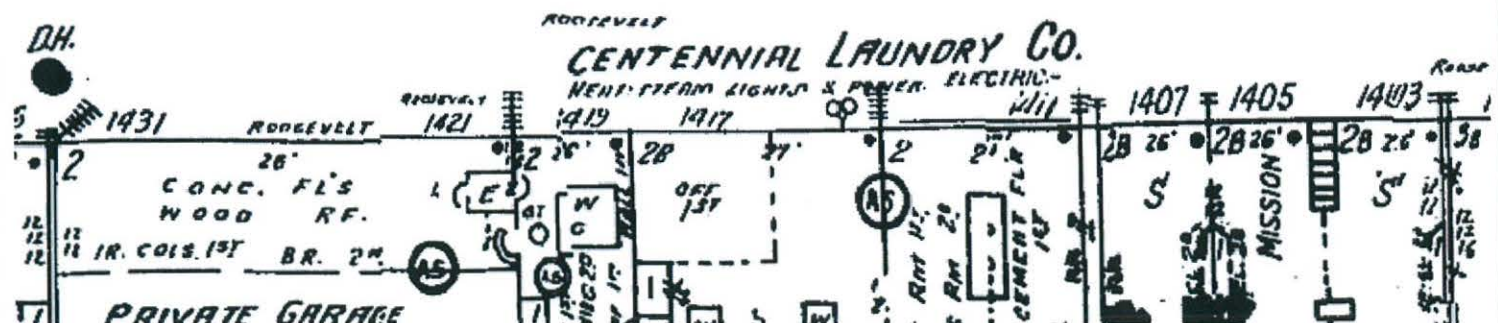
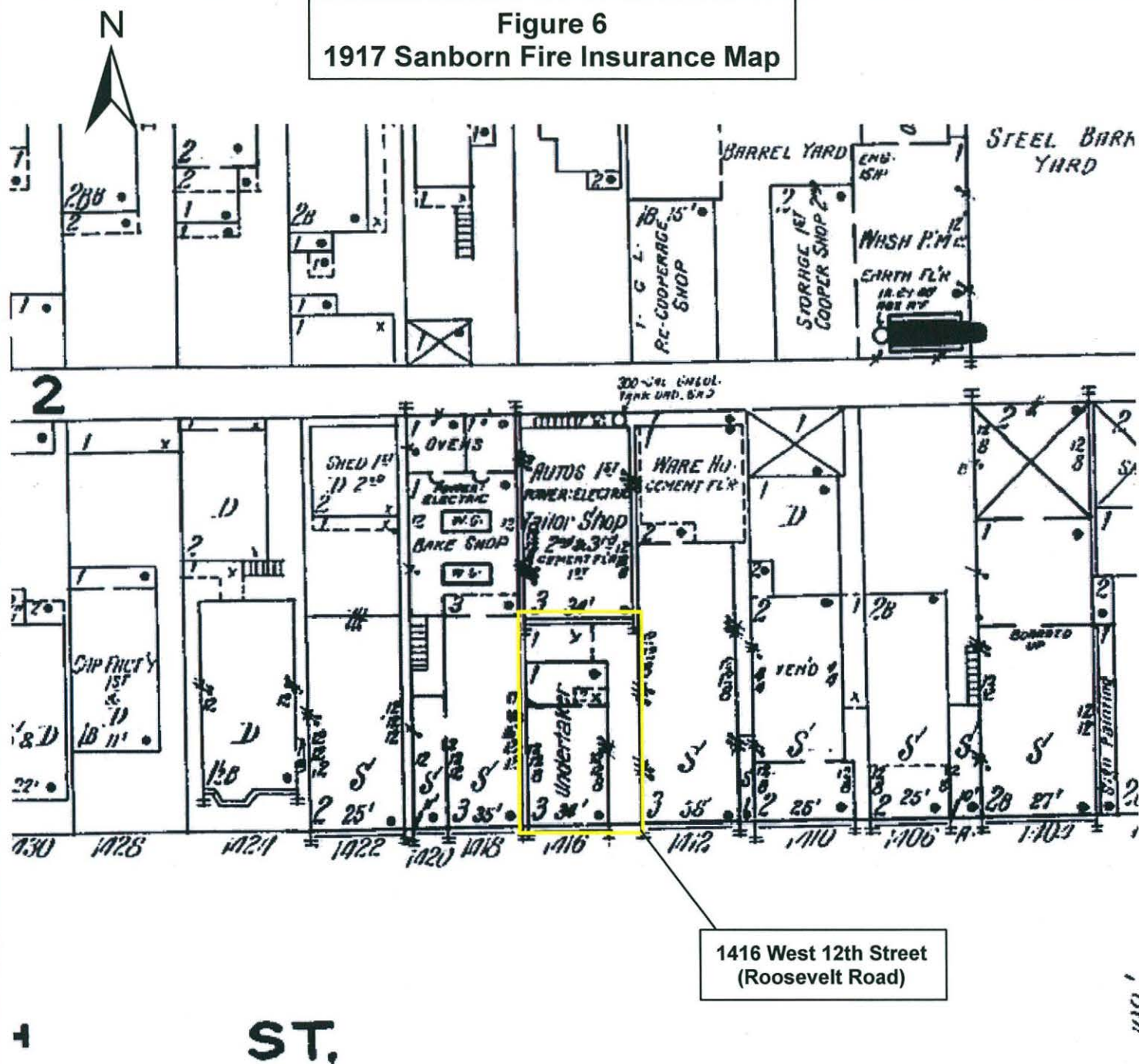




Figure 6  
1917 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map



1416 West 12th Street  
(Roosevelt Road)

CENTENNIAL LAUNDRY CO.

VENT: STEAM-LIGHTS & POWER: ELECTRIC

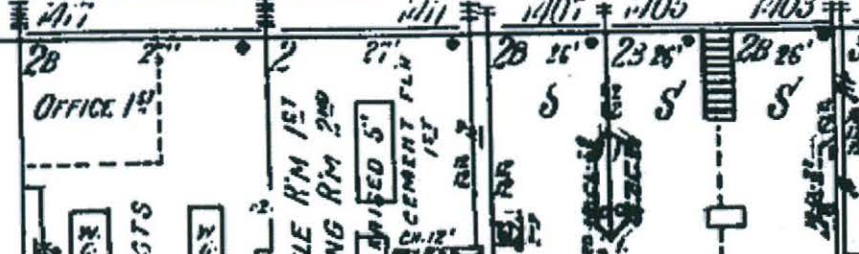






Figure 7  
1938 Aerial Photograph



South Ashland Avenue

1416 W. Roosevelt Road  
(W 12th Street)

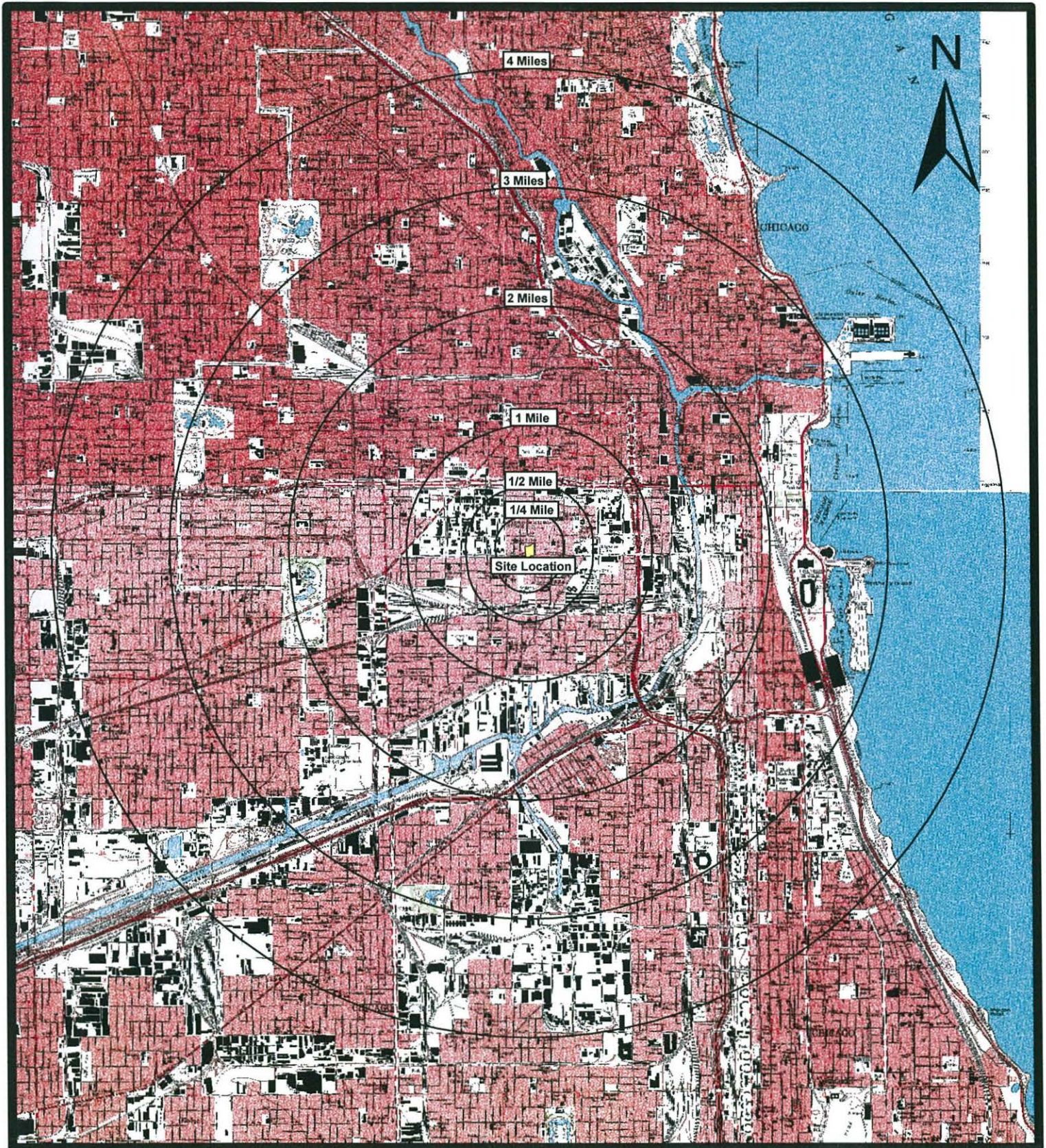
Loomis Street

Roosevelt Road





**4 Mile Radius Map  
Bruco Company  
Chicago, Illinois**



**MAP SCALE**

